

The Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is a specialist section of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. It seeks to put forward CND's message in the light of the Gospel in churches of all denominations.

Christian CND continues to work in Churches and other Faith Communities encouraging them to see work for nuclear disarmament as part of their Faith commitment, to engage with the government of the day and make public statements on this subject.

As part of its aim to dialogue with decision makers, it holds an annual walk visiting the London embassies of Nuclear Weapons States, the New Agenda Coalition and other relevant nations. In 2010 this also incorporated interviews with representatives of 13 of these embassies.

Conferences and day schools are arranged on both the theology and politics of nuclear disarmament in solidarity with other Faith Communities. Liturgies and demonstrations are held at significant sites.

CCND also helps schools with their curriculum requirements on War and Peace.

**Christian CND**                      **020 7700 4200**

*Mordechai Vanunu House. 162 Holloway Rd. London N7 8DQ*  
[christians@cnduk.org](mailto:christians@cnduk.org)                      <http://ccnd.gn.apc.org>

## **NUCLEAR WEAPONS and the THE UNITED NATIONS**



The **United Nations** officially came into existence on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1945, when the UN Charter had been ratified by a majority of the original

Member States. The day is now celebrated each year around the world as United Nations Day.

Its purpose is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well-being of all people. It affords the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems. The UN emblem shows the world held in the '*olive branches of peace*'.

There are currently 192 Members of the United Nations. They meet in the General Assembly, which is the closest thing to a world parliament. Each country, large or small, rich or poor, has a single vote, however, none of the decisions taken by the Assembly are binding. Nevertheless, the Assembly's decisions become the resolutions that carry the weight of world governmental opinion.

As the United Nations was formed shortly after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the prevention of another nuclear war and the control of nuclear armaments has always been one of its main priorities. Arms control advocates had campaigned for the adoption of a treaty banning all nuclear explosions since the early 1950s when public concern was raised as a result of radioactive fall-out from atmospheric nuclear tests and the escalating arms race. Prime Minister Nehru of India voiced the heightened international concern in 1954 when he proposed the elimination of all nuclear test explosions worldwide. However, Cold War scepticism about compliance posed a major obstacle to any agreement.

Limited success was achieved with the signing of the **Partial Test Ban Treaty** in **1963**, which banned nuclear tests in the atmosphere, underwater and in space. Neither France or China signed the PTBT.

However the treaty was still ratified by the United States after an 80 to 19 vote in the United States Senate.

A Major step towards non-proliferation of nuclear weapons came with the signing of the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty** in 1968. Under the NPT, non nuclear-weapons states were prohibited from possessing, manufacturing or acquiring nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. All signatories, including nuclear-weapons states, were committed to the goal of total nuclear disarmament.

Little progress was then made until the end of the Cold War in 1991. **The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**, negotiated by the **Conference on Disarmament** (a forum established by the international community to negotiate multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements) and presented to the UN General Assembly in September 1996, is the first treaty to ban all nuclear explosions. What is particularly interesting about the CTBT is that it can only enter into force once all 44 states with nuclear energy reactors sign and ratify the treaty regardless of whether they have or are pursuing nuclear weapons. This requirement was an unprecedented acknowledgement of the link between nuclear weapons and nuclear energy capabilities. As yet the US has signed the CTBT but not ratified it. It is still the subject of ongoing debate.

*Information obtained from Wikipedia*

*WILPF [www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/factsheets](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/factsheets)*